

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 FRB-01 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-02 LAB-04 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-01

TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7971

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, UY

SUBJ: TRADE ACT OF 1974

REF: MVD 3756

1. AS REPORTED IN USIS USINFO CABLE OF TODAY, LOCAL PRESS HAS BEEN GIVING HEAVY COVERAGE TO LA REACTION TO NEW US TRADE ACT. VENEZUELAN AND ECUADORIAN COMPLAINTS HAVE BEEN FEATURED, AS WELL AS POSSIBILITY FROM VARIOUS PRESS SOURCES THAT PERU, COLOMBIA AND CHILE MAY ALSO REFUSE TO ATTEND BA FONMIN MEETING IN MARCH, IN PART BECAUSE OF OBJECTIONS TO ACT.

2. ONE PAPER, LA MANANA, TODAY REPORTS GOU FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMEN TOLD THEIR REPORTERS THAT THE MINISTRY WOULD START A "DETAILED ANALYSIS" OF THE LAW AND "IT IS PREMATURE TO ISSUE JUDGMENT" NOW. HOWEVER, THE SPOKESMEN INDICATED THERE WAS "AT LEAST ONE POSITIVE FACT" NAMELY REGARDING TARIFF PREFERENCES. THE FONMIN SURCES REPORTEDLY POINTED OUT THAT THE US WAS THE ONLY LARGE COUNTRY WIHC HAD LACKED LEGAL PROVISION FOR LDC PREFERENCES. THE SPOKESMEN CONCLUDED BY SAYING THE DETAILS OF THE LAW

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WOULD HAVE TO BE STUDIED, PARTICULARLY AS THEY AFFECT URUGUAYAN PRO-

DUCTS, AND ALSO THE "MANNER IN WHICH THE US ADMINISTRATION PROPOSED
TO APPLY THE LAW."

3 THIS IS THE FIRST OFFICIAL COMMENT IN PUBLIC WE HAVE HEARD
ON THE LAW AS ENACTED. IT FOLLOWS THE CONCILIATORY LINE TAKEN IN
PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS WITH US (SEE REFTEL), AND SUGGESTS THE
GOU WILL FOLLOW A COURSE OF QUIET REFLECTION WITH THE EMPHASIS
ON SEEING HOW THE NEW US LAW AFFECTS URUGUAY'S PARTICULAR
COMMERCIAL INTERESTS.

4. GDS.
HAAHR

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